

*Individual Lesson
1 class period*

*A People's Guide to the Federal Budget
Chapter 6*

Federal Spending Trade-Offs

Objective:

Students will be able to determine the estimated amount of federal income taxes from their state (and possibly their county, city or town) that went to fund specific federal programs/initiatives. Students will then be able to examine what else those tax dollars could have funded.

Description:

1. Have students visit Trade-Offs on NPP's website (<http://nationalpriorities.org/en/interactive-data/trade-offs/>)
2. Ask students to click on their state (and/or nearest county, city or town).
3. Ask students to choose a program.
4. Ask students to choose one or all of the trade-offs.
5. After using the trade-off tool, students will write a reflection on what they learned using the following questions:
 - ⤴ What were you most surprised by when exploring the trade-offs for your state or community?
 - ⤴ In what ways are your priorities different than the federal government's priorities?
 - ⤴ In what ways are they similar?
 - ⤴ What did this make you think about?
 - ⤴ What would you change?